



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report**

28 November – 26 December 2012

27 December 2012

Maritime Crime/Piracy

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

1. (U) OMAN. Merchant vessel experienced suspicious approach on 27 December approximately 22 nm east of Al Kasab, Oman.

2. (U) NIGERIA: Supply vessel boarded and crew kidnapped on 23 December approximately 40 nm off the coastline of Bayelsa.

3. (U) INDONESIA: Tanker boarded on 20 December at the Belawan anchorage.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for December 2012 and January 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html and follow the application procedure. For further information, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for December 2012 and January 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-299), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for December 2012 and January 2013. For Further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for December 2012. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammail.net, or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for December 2012. For further information e-mail smb@msecurity.ru or Fax: +7 (495) 607-01-95 (MSCHOA).

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN**: No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA**: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC**: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA**: No current incidents to report.

G. (U) **WEST AFRICA**:

1. (U) **NIGERIA**: Supply vessel ASSO VENTUNO boarded and crew kidnapped on 23 December at 04:01 N – 005:14 E, approximately 40 nm off the coastline of Bayelsa. Pirates armed with guns attacked and boarded an offshore supply vessel underway, and kidnapped four crew members. No injuries to the remaining crew members. The vessel continued on its passage to a safe port. (IMB, BBC)

2. (U) NIGERIA: Tanker boarded and crew kidnapped on 17 December in the vicinity off 03:41 N – 07:12 E, approximately 40 nm off the Niger Delta. An unknown number of pirates boarded the tanker. During the ordeal, pirates stole personal items, vandalized the vessel, and kidnapped five crew members. (AP)

3. (U) NIGERIA: Ro-Ro Cargo ship fired upon on 13 December at 04:16 N – 05:19 E, approximately 25 nm southwest off Bayelsa. Pirates armed with machine guns in a boat chased and fired upon the ship underway. Master raised the alarm, increased speed, sent distress message and all crew except the Master mustered in the safe room. The on board security team returned fire and after around 20 minutes the firing ceased and the pirates moved away. Due to the exchange of fire one security personal was killed and two sustained injuries. (IMB, IMO)

4. (U) TOGO: Tanker under suspicious approach on 11 December at 06:04 N – 001:16 E, at the Lome anchorage. Eight robbers in a wooden boat approached an anchored product tanker at high speed. Seeing the armed Togo navy guards and security team on board the vessel the robbers aborted the attack and moved away. At 0330 LT, another boat with nine robbers approached the anchored tanker however they too aborted and moved away upon seeing the armed navy personnel. (IMB)

5. (U) TOGO: Tanker experienced suspicious approach on 30 November at 06:02 N – 001:18 E, at the Lome Anchorage. Four robbers in a blue and white colored skiff approached an anchored product tanker. Armed guards onboard the tanker found the intention of the skiff aggressive and fired a warning shot. The skiff aborted the approach and moved away. Master called the Togo Navy but received no response. At 2305 UTC, the skiff along with three similar skiffs approached the tanker at high speed from the bow, mid-ship and stern. The armed guards fired two warning shots in the air which were ignored by the skiff which closed to the ship's side and then moved toward the stern. Only when the armed team fired more warning shots did the skiff move away. The Master heaved up the anchor and sailed further away from the anchorage area to drift. At 2320 UTC, Togo Navy responded and the Master reported the incident (IMB)

I. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) OMAN: Merchant vessel experienced suspicious approach at 0535 UTC on 27 December near positions 26:17 N – 056:43 E in the Gulf of Oman, approximately 22 nm east of Al Kasab, Oman. The activity consisted of two skiffs, with the first skiff approaching the merchant ship to within 500 meters; with possible weapons sighted. Vessel's armed embarked security team fired flares and the skiff moved away. The second skiff approached to within 200 meters. Embarked security team again fired a warning flare but there was no response from the second skiff. Vessel security team then fired two warning shots to the side of the second skiff. Skiffs then broke off the approach and departed the area. Vessel is safe. (NSC)

2. (U) OMAN: Tanker fired upon on 15 December at 24:36 N – 057:32 E, approximately 80 nm northwest of Muscat. Armed pirates in a skiff approached and opened fire on a tanker underway. The Master raised alarm, commenced evasive maneuvers, called UKMTO, sent distress alerts via VHF and SSAS and all crew retreated into the citadel. Navies in the vicinity responded to the distress and a naval boarding team was sent to rescue the crews. On boarding the vessel no pirates were found and the crew regained control of the tanker. (IMB)

3. (U) OMAN: Tanker under suspicious approach on 15 December at 24:10 N – 059:08 E, approximately 45 nm northeast of Muscat. A dhow was seen launching a skiff which approached the tanker underway. Master raised the alarm, increased speed, altered course; crew mustered and contacted authorities for assistance. At a distance of 0.2 nm weapons and ladders were identified on the skiff and the onboard armed security team fired warning shots resulting in the skiff moving away. (IMO, IMB)

4. (U) IRAN: Tanker boarded on 15 December in the vicinity of 24:33 N – 058:05 E, approximately 67 nm south of Jask. A pirate gang utilizes three suspicious skiffs approached the vessel. Alarm was raised and crewmembers mustered in the citadel and awaited the arrival of a warship. Pirates are thought to have left the vessel after seeing the approach of the HDMS Iver Huitfeldt. Evidence showed damaged barbed wire at the stern and an unsuccessful attempt at breaching the citadel. (TW)

5. (U) INDIA: Tanker boarded on 30 November in the vicinity of 09:57 N – 076:13 E, at the Cochin Outer Anchorage. Three robbers in a wooden boat approached and boarded an anchored tanker. They broke into the forecastle store and stole ship's stores. Duty crew heard some noises in the fore peak store, checked and found the door's lock broken and informed D/O who raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with the stolen ship's stores. Coast guard and port control informed. (IMB)

J. (U) **PERSIAN GULF**: No current incidents to report.

K. (U) **SOUTHEAST ASIA**:

1. (U) INDONESIA: Tanker boarded on 20 December at 03:57 N – 098:46 E, at the Belawan anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker receiving provisions, stole ships property and escaped unnoticed. Upon investigation it was found that the robbers gained access to the forecastle by breaking through the razor wire. Local agent and the port authorities informed. (IMB)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: Tanker boarded on 11 December in the vicinity of 01:20 N – 104:08 E, 3 nm south of Tanjung Stapa. A wooden boat containing 18 robbers pulled alongside an anchored tanker. While eight men boarded the tanker, the remaining ten waited in the small boat. The robbery was unsuccessful, due to the alerting of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and their rapid response. The eight robbers who boarded the vessel were captured by the MMEA and are currently being detained pending the investigation. Of the twelve crew members, the ship's watchdog was killed and three crew members sustained injuries and are being treated at the Royal Malaysian Navy Hospital in Tanjung Pengelih. (AP)

3. (U) INDONESIA: Bulk carrier boarded on 10 December at 03:43 S – 114:26 E, at the Taboneo Anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier while the duty crews were busy attending to a barge. Once the crews returned to their watch keeping duties they noticed the bosun store lock broken and ship properties stolen. On investigating it was found that the robbers had accessed the vessel via the anchor chain after managing to cut the wire lashing and break the padlock securing the hawse pipe covers. Local agents informed. (IMO, IMB)

4. (U) INDONESIA: Tanker experienced a suspicious approach on 8 December at 03:55 N – 098:47 E, at Belawan Roads. Three wooden boats with five robbers in each approached an anchored chemical tanker waiting for cargo operations. Due to the crew's alertness, the robbers were spotted and were unable to board the vessel. Before moving away, one of the robbers gestured to the crew that they would return during the night hours. Due to the threat and no response from port authorities the Master heaved up the anchor and sailed to the open sea. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: Bulk carrier boarded on 5 December at 03:47 N - 098:42 E, at the Belawan Port. Four robbers boarded a bulk carrier alongside a berth during discharge operations. They broke into the deck store, stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed during the hand over watch and was reported to the local agent and the port authorities. (IMB)

6. (U) INDONESIA: Tanker experienced an attempted boarding on 1 December at 01:23 S – 116:59 E, at the Balikpapan Outer Anchorage. Robbers in an unlit small boat closed on an anchored bulk carrier and attempted to climb onboard the ship via the anchor chain. Alert duty O/S noticed the robbers, shouted at them and informed the bridge who raised the alarm. All crew members rushed to the forecabin. On hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and escaped in their boat. Port control informed. (IMB)

7. (U) INDONESIA: Tug boarded on 30 November at 01:26 N – 104:34 E, approximately 12 nm north of Bintan Island. Nine pirates armed with long knives boarded an anchored tug from astern and took the duty watchman as hostage. The pirates then went to the bridge and stole crew personal belongings, cash and vessel's navigation equipment and escaped. During the incident, two crew members were slightly injured. (IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: Tanker boarded on 29 November at 06:01 S – 106:54 E, at the Tanjung Priok Anchorage. Three robbers boarded a chemical tanker at anchor. Robbers were sighted at poop deck, alarm raised and all crew mustered. Seeing alert crew the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. All crew safe. (IMB)

9. (U) INDONESIA: Tanker boarded on 28 November at 03:55 N – 098:45 E, at the Belawan Anchorage. Four armed robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker via the anchor chain. They attempted to attack the duty AB who managed to escape and inform the OOW. By the time the crew mustered, the robbers had escaped with stolen ship stores. Attempts to contact and report incident to port authority were unsuccessful. All crew safe. (IMB)

10. (U) INDONESIA: Bulk carrier ship boarded on 28 November at 00:18 S – 117:40 E, at the Samarinda Anchorage. Pirates armed with a long knife boarded an anchored bulk carrier. Duty watchman noticed the pirates who threatened him with a long knife and warned him not to approach any closer. Duty watchman alerted the Chief Officer who raised the alarm and alerted the crew. On seeing the alert crew the pirates escaped with stolen ship's stores. (IMO)

L. (U) **NORTH ASIA:**

(U) CHINA: Bulk carrier boarded on 14 December at 32:00 N – 120:45 E, at the Nantong Working Anchorage. Three robbers tried to board an anchored bulk carrier via the gangway but were challenged by the alert crew and denied access to the ship. The robbers then managed to

gain access to the ship via the barge working cargo. The alert crew spotted the robbers as they tried to lower ship stores and raised the alarm. On seeing crew alertness the robbers left the ship and entered the barge. Local agents informed. (IMB)

M. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN:** No current incidents to report.

N. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS:** No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://www.nga.mil/portal/site/maritime>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)

- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) **ICOD:** 26 December 2012